

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3706

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT GW

SUBJECT: LOWER SAXONY AND THE POLISH AGREEMENTS

REF: BONN 2951

1. MINISTER-PRESIDENT ERNST ALBRECHT HAS NOT AS YET DECIDED HOW LOWER SAXONY WILL VOTE ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE POLISH AGREEMENTS IN THE BUNDESRAT. SOURCES CLOSE TO ALBRECHT INFORMED US THAT HE IS PLAYING FOR TIME, HOPING THAT THE POLISH GOVERNMENT WILL OFFER AN ADDENDUM TO THE PROTOCOL SIGNED IN OCTOBER 1975 WHICH WILL UNEQUIVOCALLY BIND THE POLISH GOVERNMENT TO AN AGREEMENT PERMITTING THE EMIGRATION OF ALL ETHNIC GERMANS IN POLAND. ALBRECHT, ACCORDING TO WELL INFORMED CDU SOURCES HERE, PERSONALLY AGREES WITH THOSE 15 MEMBERS OF THE CDU/CSU FRACTION IN THE BUNDESTAG WHO VOTED FOR THE PENSION AGREEMENT WITH POLAND ON FEBRUARY 19.

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2. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH WELT AM SONNTAG ON FEBRUARY 22, ALBRECHT'S DELPHIC RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LOWER SAXONY POSITION IN THE BUNDESRAT VOTE ON MARCH 12 REVEALED THE DELEMMA FACING HIM. ASKED WHETHER IT WAS CORRECT TO INTERPRET THE CHANCELLOR'S STATEMENT IN THE BUNDESTAG ON FEBRUARY 19 (BONN 2951) AS AN INDICATION THAT THE BONN COALITION GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO MEET THE OPPOSITION HALF-WAY, ALBRECHT REPLIED THAT "I CANNOT JUDGE HOW SERIOUS THIS EFFORT REALLY IS. I CAN ONLY STATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST MAKE A GREAT EFFORT TO TAKE OUR RESERVATIONS INTO CONSIDERATION OR THE AGREEMENTS AS POSED WILL FAIL TO BE RATIFIED."

3. ON FEBRUARY 26 THE LANDTAG IN LOWER SAXONY IS SCHEDULED TO DEBATE THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM DELIVERED TO THE LANDTAG BY MINISTER-PRESIDENT ALBRECHT ON THE PREVIOUS DAY. I HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND THIS DEBATE AND HOPE, DURING THE COURSE OF IT, TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE LAND POSITION IN THE BUNDESRAT WITH WILFRIED HASSELMANN, THE MINISTER FOR BUNDESRAT AFFAIRS IN LOWER SAXONY. BY THIS TIME THE ALBRECHT GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE RESOLVED ITS DILEMMA AND I SHALL REPORT WHATEVER I LEARN ON THIS MATTER FOLLOWING MY RETURN FROM HANNOVER. BROGAN

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